Date: October 6, 2003

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Francis Anthony Darmann et al.

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Continuation of Serial No.: 09/661,253

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 2011 South Clark Place Customer Window, Mail Stop Patent Application Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.